Foodgrain production and shortage

†2592. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of growth rate of foodgrain production and population in the country;

(b) the extent of shortfall registered in the foodgrain stocks in the country during the last two years;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to avoid import of foodgrains from foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA) (a) The average growth rate of foodgrain production during the period 2000-01 to 2004-05 is 2.06% while the projected average growth rate of population during the period 2001 to 2005 is 1.60%. Thus, the rate of growth of foodgrain production is about 25% higher than that of population.

(b) The stock of rice and wheat as on 1st July 2004 was 29.92 million tonnes against the buffer norm of 24.30 million tonnes. The stock of rice and wheat as on 1st July 2005 was 24.53 million tonnes against the new buffer norm of 26.90 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) India is a net exporter of rice and wheat but it imports pulses to meet the demand and supply gap. For increasing the production of foodgrains, schemes like Integrated Crop Development Programme (ICDP) for Wheat, Rice, Coarse Cereals and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISPOM) are being implemented in various states of the country. To increase the irrigated areas, micro irrigation systems are promoted apart from providing financial support to complete the last mile projects through accelerated irrigation benefit programme.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.